

REMARKS

Claim 8 has been amended as set forth above to correct an inconsistency. Claims 1-28 remain pending in this application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The Office has rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,535,929 to Provino et al. (Provino). In particular, the Office asserts that Provino teaches a system and a method comprising a plurality of devices (figure 1, 40, 42, 46, 34), a first device in the plurality of devices having a universal contextual interface (see column 3 line 63 to column 4 line 4 and column 5 lines 23-34, wherein the universal communication comprising interface module 78), the universal contextual interface associated with at least one instruction for transferring contextual data (see column 5 lines 23-67, wherein instructions are REGISTER, DEREGISTER, SEND, RECEIVE etc.), and a second device in the plurality of devices that invokes the universal contextual interface of the first device to execute the at least one instruction to transfer the contextual data between the first device and at least one of the plurality of devices (see figure 1, column 5 lines 23-67 and column 4 lines 18-37, wherein other devices such as 42, 46, etc. invokes universal communication and instructions such as REGISTER etc. for transfer to other devices such as 42, 46, 34, thus figure 1 discloses plurality of computers 20 are connecting to each other via LAN 22 and the LAN 22 is connecting to other computer 26 via the Internet or WAN), the plurality of devices having no prior knowledge of each other (see abstract, wherein the devices such as 40, 42, 46, 34 allow two applications of dissimilar addressing mode to communicate with one another without a priori knowledge of each other).

However, Provino fails to teach, disclose, or suggest, “a first device . . . having a universal contextual interface, the universal contextual interface associated with at least one instruction for transferring contextual data” and “a second device . . . that invokes the universal contextual interface of the first device to execute the at least one instruction to transfer the contextual data between the first device and at least one of the other devices in the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices having no prior knowledge of each other” as is recited in claim 1, or to invoke “a universal contextual interface associated with a first device in a plurality of devices, the contextual interface associated with at least one instruction for transferring contextual data” and to execute “the at least one instruction to

transfer the contextual data between the first device and a second device in the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices having no prior knowledge of each other” as is recited in claims 11 and 20.

Instead, Provino discloses a mechanism for implementing inter-process communication (IPC) among processes running on a single host and with shared access to a single operating system kernel. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a “*universal contextual interface*” as recited in the claims that can facilitate communication *between devices*. Rather, the “communication” disclosed by Provino allows messages to be passed *among running applications* via shared virtual memory. IPC via shared virtual memory is a common technique well known in the art, and the only significant advancement provided by Provino is the ability to facilitate communication between applications with different addressing modes (e.g. 16-bit vs. 32-bit address spaces). As Provino specifically discloses that the “device driver allows two applications of dissimilar addressing mode to communicate with each other without a priori knowledge of the communicating partner’s addressing mode,” Provino is merely teaching that the universal communication mechanism can be used to overcome different addressing modes. (Abstract). The format, meaning, encoding, etc. of the data shared via the messages and/or data blocks must be agreed upon by both of the application programs (i.e. the two programs must have a priori agreement on the details of the data message formats and encodings) for communication to be successful.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office is misinterpreting Provino’s statement that “the universal communication mechanism can be deployed on one computer or multiple computers...” as meaning that Provino can facilitate communication between devices, or between applications running on different devices. (Col. 3 line 63-65). This is not correct. This statement does not imply or infer in any way that installing the communication mechanism on multiple computers would allow applications running on different computers to communicate. Instead, this statement simply refers to the fact that each individual computer would allow applications running *within its own memory* and *hosted by its own operating system* to communicate with each other, not with applications running on remote computers. Similarly, Col. 4, lines 18-38 of Provino simply describes the various ways that a device driver can be installed on a computer, and does not describe the transfer of a data transfer session object from one device to another as part of the

initialization and setup of a communication session in any way. In addition, the instructions “REGISTER, Deregister, SEND, RECEIVE, etc.” disclosed by Provino and cited by the examiner refer only to the establishment and use of a communication channel between two processes. (Col. 5, lines 23-67). These instructions are not related to the transmission of contextual information between devices, the interface and/or protocols for communication of any such information between device, or the establishment of universal contextual interfaces for the discovery and sharing of contextual information between devices.

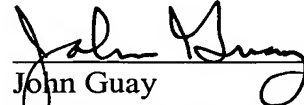
As described on page 3, line 25 to page 5, line 10 of the specification, an exemplary system of the invention includes components or devices which are coupled together by network such that a *universal contextual interface associated with one of the components may be invoked to enable a transfer of contextual data between the components*. The present invention allows components using the same or different communication protocols and/or data types to transfer context information between each other without requiring the components to use domain-specific interfaces, protocols or data formats. Moreover, the present invention provides for enabling users, devices or applications to retrieve and provide each other with current context information and other data directly to each other without requiring the components to have prior knowledge of each other. These novel features are not taught, disclosed, or suggested by Provino.

Thus, Applicants submit that Provino fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 1, 11, and 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 11, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn. The dependent claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 11, and 20, and also on their own merits.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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